

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-10 OMB-01 OES-06 ERDA-07 MC-02 NRC-07 /100 W
-----241537Z 022127 /47-44

R 241227Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 763
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KABUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1105

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC MPOL IN
SUBJECT: GENERAL RAINA SAYS CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS MEET INDIAN
REQUIREMENTS

1. CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF GENERAL T N RAINA TOLD
AN INTERVIEWER THAT THE GOI HAD RIGHTLY DECIDED TO
REFRAIN FROM GOING IN FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONRY. IN AN
ARTICLE D IN THE JANUARY EDITION OF THE BOMBAY
MAGAZINE, "ONLOOKER", RAINA ADDED THAT THIS POLICY
IN NO WAY LIMITS INDIA'S OPTION TO DEVELOP ITS NUCLEAR
CAPABILITY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. RAINA ADDED THAT,
"FOR THE FORESEEABLE THREATS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY,
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS AND THERE IS
NO REQUIREMENT FOR US TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

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2. RAINA WAS QUESTIONED ON A NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS.
HIS RESPONSES ON OTHER SIGNIFICANT TOPICS FOLLOW:

A. ARMY ROLE: WE HARBOR NO TERRITORIAL DESIGNS
NOR ANY HEGEMONISTIC AMBITIONS AND WE ARE DEEPLY
ATTACHED TO THE IDEALS OF PEACE. ACCORDINGLY, THE
ROLE OF THE ARMY IS TO DEFEND OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY

AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AND TO BE PREPARED TO ASSIST THE CIVIL AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY.

B. SIZE AND EXPENDITURES: THE INDIAN ARMY CONTINUES TO BE THE LARGEST VOLUNTEER ARMY IN THE WORLD..A LARGE COUNTRY LIKE OURS WITH A LARGE POPULATION AND LARGE PROBLEMS MUST INEVITABLY HAVE A LARGE ARMY... OUR PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE ON DEFENSE IS LOWER THAN MOST COUNTRIES. IT IS ONLY 5 US DOLLARS AS AGAINST 11 FOR PAKISTAN, 190 FOR THE UK, 281 FOR IRAN, AND 477 FOR THE USA. THE INDIAN FIGURE OF 3 PERCENT OF GNP IS LOWER THAN THAT OF MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

C. TRAINING AND READINESS: CONSTANT PRACTICE TO HANDLE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY IN A MODERN ARMY. A HIGH STATE OF OPERATIONAL READINESS ALSO REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGIL AND DEPLOYMENT IN FAR FLUNG AREAS ON THE BORDER UNDER INHOSPITABLE CONDITIONS AND IN EXTREMES OF CLIMATE...WE ALSO HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ASSIST CIVIL AUTHORITY WHENEVER REQUIRED. LUCKILY, SINCE THE EMERGENCY, WE HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED ON TO ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER....

D. RECRUITMENT: THE ARMY TAKES IN APPROXIMATELY 50,000 RECRUITS ANNUALLY. RECRUITMENT IS OPEN TO ALL INDIAN CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF CASTE AND CREED. QUOTAS TODAY ARE BY AND LARGE WORKED OUT ON THE BASIS OF ELIGIBLE MALE POPULATION IN THE STATES.

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E. FOREIGN TRAINEES: WE HAVE ALLOTTED 1,005 VACANCIES TO ARMY PERSONNEL FROM 38 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES... DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS HAS INCREASED NEARLY FIVE TIMES.

F. WEAPONS AND PROCUREMENT: ALL ARMIES ARE EN-DEAVORING TO ATTAIN AN INCREASING DEGREE OF MECHANIZATION AND SOPHISTICATION...WE HAVE NOW ATTAINED A LARGE MEASURE OF SELF SUFFICIENCY IN THE PRODUCTION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT WHICH COMPARES VERY FAVORABLY WITH THE EQUIPMENT IN USE BY OUR NEIGHBORS...APPROXIMATELY 13.5 PERCENT OF THE ARMY BUDGET IS SPENT ON WEAPONS...THE VALUE OF OUR ORDNANCE FACTORIES AND DEFENSE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS HAS RISEN FROM 832 MILLION RUPEES IN 61-62 TO 5,460 MILLION RUPEES IN 74-75.

3. EXCERPTS FROM THE ONLOOKER INTERVIEW WERE CARRIED BY THE INDIAN NEWS AGENCY SAMACHAR ON JANUARY 13.SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: MNUC, MPOL, IN, (RAINA, T N)
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